GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2942
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2005
NATIONAL POLICY ON RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION .
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether women are the worst victims of development in the absence of a National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether policies made so far do not accord equal status to the displaced women;

(d) if so, reasons therefore;

(e) whether the National Commission for Women has expressed concern over the status of displaced women;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether surveys reveal that 20 million people have been displaced during the last four decades on account of development out of which 75 per cent have not been properly rehabilitated; and

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Government to frame a National Policy on resettlement and Rehabilitation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

(a)&(b) As per a study on 'Development Induced Displacement in India : Impact on Women' sponsored by the National Commission for Women (NCW), displacement may affect women differently and the gender inequalities get accentuated in situations like displacement resettlement.

(c)&(d) As per the study referred to in the reply to parts (a) & (b) above, the Rehabilitation and Resettlement policies of the State Governments of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Orissa have given some benefits to displaced women, but none of the other state policies have gender perspective in resettlement and rehabilitation.

(e)&(f) Yes, Sir. The NCW has sponsored a study on 'Development Induced Displacement in India : Impact on Women' as mentioned in the reply to parts (a) & (b) above.

(g) The study referred to above mentions that as per an estimate, the country's development programmes have caused the displacement of approximately 20 million people over roughly four decades, and as many as 75 percent of these people have not been rehabilitated.

(h) The Department of Land Resources has formulated and circulated a National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families-2003 (NPRR-2003) to the concerned Ministries/Departments and the State Governments for its adoption. The same was published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part I-Section 1, (No. 46) on 19th February, 2004. The benefits envisaged in the Policy would be applicable to all project affected families including women.